

Message Text

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ACTION NODS-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 W
-----291921Z 125742 /40
O 291800Z MAY 77
FM AMEMBASSY AMMAN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1806

S E C R E T SECTION 1 OF 2 AMMAN 3042

NODIS

FOR THE SECRETARY FROM AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652 XGDS-1
TAGS: PFOR JO US XF
SUBJECT: CODEL STONE-TALK WITH KING HUSSEIN

1. SUMMARY: SENATOR STONE AND KING HUSSEIN MET ALONE MAY 29 FOR 40 MINUTE DISCUSSION. WHAT FOLLOWS IS FROM SENATOR'S REPORT TO ME OF CONVERSATION. PRINCIPAL ISSUE DISCUSSED WAS JORDANS FUTURE ROLE IN THE PEACE PROCESS. KING INDICATED JORDAN IS READY AND WILLING NOW TO PLAY A ROLE BUT NEEDS TO KNOW WHAT U.S. AND ISRAEL WANT AND WILL SUPPORT BEFORE MAKING AN INITIAL DECISION TO ENGAGE ITSELF. KING ALSO NOTED IT WOULD BE MISTAKE TO THRUST PLO INTO PROCESS GRATUITOUSLY AND TO IMPOSE PLO ON THOUSANDS OF PALESTINIANS WHO SHOULD MAKE UP THEIR OWN MINDS.KING FELT EGYPTIANS HAD MADE NUMBER OF MISTAKES LATELY IN APPEARING OVER-CONFIDENT AND AT SAME TIME UNAWARE OF NEED TO COME TO GRIPS WITH THEIR OWN DOMESTIC ECONOMIC PROBLEMS. SENATOR EXPLAINED HIS VIEW OF ISRAELI GOVERNMENT FORMATION PROCESS, FRAGILITY OF AN ALL RIGHT-WING 61-VOTE COALITION, NEED FOR YADIN'S DMC TO PLAY A ROLE

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AND HOPE THAT SUCH A ROLE WOULD BE CONSTRUCTIVE AND FINALLY THAT HE HOPED WHILE IN ISRAEL TO APPROACH LEADERSHIP TO MAKE POSITIVE STEP TOWARD MOVING JORDAN INTO PICTURE. IF ISRAELI REACTION GOOD, HE INTENDS TO RETURN TO AMMAN OR TO SEND KING A MESSAGE DETAILING RESULTS OF HIS VISIT AS APPROPRIATE. END SUMMARY.

2. SENATOR STONE INDICATED THAT HE RECALLED FOR KING PAST CONVERSATIONS IN WASHINGTON WHEN HE URGED UPON KING A MORE FORWARD AND POSITIVE ROLE IN BRINGING JORDAN INTO PEACE PROCESS AS THE ESSENTIAL CATALYST TO RESOLVE PROBLEM OVER FUTURE CONTROL OF WEST BANK. ISRAELIS WILL NOT MOVE WITH PLO, BUT SAY THAT THEY ARE READY TO DO SO WITH JORDAN. IT THEREFORE BECOMES ESSENTIAL FOR JORDAN TO CONTROL THE DEFENSE AND FOREIGN AFFAIRS ASPECTS OF ANY FUTURE DEMILITARIZED PALESTINIAN ENTITY ON THE WEST BANK.

3. KING'S REPLY WAS THAT HE IS CONCERNED ABOUT GETTING OUT ALONE AHEAD OF PROCESS. ARAB STATES ARE LIKELY TO SUPPORT HIM ONLY IF THEY HAVE A CLEAR SIGNAL FROM PRESIDENT CARTER THAT THAT IS WHAT THE U.S. WANTS. FURTHER HE RECOGNIZES THAT IT EXTREMELY IMPORTANT THAT ISRAELIS ALSO BE POSITIVE ON THE SUBJECT. WITHOUT SUCH POSITIVE ACTION BY U.S. AND ISRAELIS NO PROGRESS IS LIKELY AND HOPEFULLY TO MAXIMUM EXTENT POSSIBLE THESE STEPS WOULD HAVE PUBLIC AS WELL AS PRIVATE ASPECTS, JORDAN UNTIL THAT HAPPENS REMAINS A PRISONER OF RABAT 1974 SUMMIT DECISION MAKING PLO SOLE,LEGITIMATE REPRESENTATIVE OF PALESTINIANS AND KNOCKING JORDAN OUT OF ANY REAL ROLE IN THE NEGOTIATIONS.

4. KING SAID HE FAVORED ARAB UNIFIED DELEGATION
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WAS PREPARED FOR SINGLE ARAB DELEGATION, AND EVEN, IF IT WOULD HELP, FOR SOME INCORPORATION OF "PALESTINIANS" (HE DID NOT SAY PLO) IN A JORDANIAN DELEGATION.

5. SENATOR TOLD KING HE INTENDS TO PRESENT THIS VIEW TO ISRAELI LEADERS WHEN HE SEES THEM NEXT WEEK. HE BELIEVES THAT WHAT BEGIN AND OTHER ARE SEEKING IS CLARIFICATION ABOUT WHETHER THE HOMELAND U.S. SUPPORTS IS FOR INDIVIDIAL PALESTINIANS OR FOR THE PLO. IN ANY

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1807

S E C R E T SECTION 2 OF 2 AMMAN 3042

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FOR THE SECRETARY FROM AMBASSADOR

EVENT, SENATOR INTENDS TO MAKE CLEAR THAT TO HAVE JORDAN INVOLVED IN PROCESS, IT AT LEAST REQUIRES ISRAELI RESTATEMENT OF INTEREST IN NEGOTIATING WEST BANK WITH JORDAN AND SOME GESTURE OF SUPPORT OR ASSISTANCE TO GIVE JORDANIANS A BOOST OVER PLO AT PRESENT STAGE OF PEACE EFFORTS. AGAIN U.S. LEADERSHIP HERE IS ALSO ESSENTIAL.

6. KING REPORTED HAVING SEEN PLO LAST WEEK AND THAT HE BELIEVES NOW WAS NOT THE TIME TO BE GRATUITOUSLY BOOSTING PLO IN PEACE PROCESS. HE DOES NOT EXCLUDE NEED TO INVOLVE PALESTINIANS, AND PERHAPS EVENTUALLY EVEN PLO, BUT LINKS TO JORDAN SHOULD BE PART OF ANY DEAL.

7. KING DID NOT DISCUSS IN ANY DETAIL RECENT PRE-FAHD VISIT MEETING IN RIYADH OR SADAT, FAHD AND ASAD FROM WHICH HE AND JORDAN WERE EXCLUDED. HE SPOKE AT SPECIFICALLY ONLY ABOUT EGYPTIANS, NOTING THAT HE WAS CONCERNED ABOUT SADAT'S CONTINUING PUBLIC OVER-OPTIMISM AND OBLIVIOUSNESS TO EGYPTIAN DOMESTIC ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL
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PROBLEMS.

8. KING APPEARED IN FINE SPIRITS AND WAS VIGOROUS AND REALISTIC. SENATOR STONE NOTED THAT IN THIS, AS IN HIS PREVIOUS CONVERSATIONS WITH THE KING, IT WAS HARD TO FIND A POINT ON WHICH HE DISAGREED WITH KING'S VIEWS AND STATE-

MENTS. KING WAS ANXIOUS TO HAVE SENATOR'S ASSESSMENT OF PRESENT ISRAELI SITUATION. SENATOR NOTED HE WILL BE GOING TO JERUSALEM SHORTLY TO FIND OUT AND WILL REPORT BACK TO KING ANY IMPORTANT CONCLUSIONS OR POINTS EITHER BY MESSAGE THROUGH THE EMBASSY, OR, IF THE SITUATION WARRANTS, PERSONALLY. THE GOVERNMENT FORMATION PROCESS IN ISRAEL IS DIFFICULT AND A MINIMUM "RIGHT-WING" LIKUD PLUS MINOR PARTIES GOVERNMENT WITH 61 VOTES MIGHT WELL BE FRAGILE. AT SAME TIME SUCH A CONFIGURATION MAXIMIZES THE DISRUPTIVE POWER OF ONE OR TWO RADICAL RIGHTISTS WHOSE POSITION WOULD BE ENHANCED BY A NARROW MAJORITY IN WHICH EACH VOTE COUNTS. ALTERNATIVELY, THERE WOULD BE POSSIBILITY OF BRINGING IN YIGAL YADIN AND THE DMC. ITS TOTAL VIEWS WERE AN UNKNOWN BUT YADIN IS HOLDING ON STRONGLY FOR THE EVENTUAL INSTITUTION OF SINGLE-MEMBER DISTRICTS AND FOR A FOREIGN POLICY BASED ON PARTY'S OWN PLATFORM INCLUDING CALL FOR NEGOTIATIONS ON WEST BANK. A CLOSER LOOK WOULD BE REQUIRED BEFORE ANY MORE CERTAIN ASSESSMENT COULD BE GIVEN.

9. SENATOR STONE HAS CLEARED THIS TELEGRAM.
PICKERING

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Message Attributes

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Sent Date: 29-May-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
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Disposition Approved on Date:
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Original Previous Classification: n/a
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TAGS: PFOR, OREP, XF, JO, US, PLO, (STONE, RICHARD), (HUSSEIN I)
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